

14 To the Honorable the Senate and House
of Representatives of Massachusetts:—

GARRISON
MSS.

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has, through her Legislature, with great unanimity, in the years 1843, 1844 and 1845, solemnly and strenuously protested against the admission, by the federal government, of the foreign nation of Texas, as a State, into the Union, because the act would be in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States, and because it would perpetuate the slavery of a portion of mankind in America, and because it would extend the unequal rule of representation, by federal numbers, over a new region never within the contemplation of those who consented to its establishment, at the time of the formation of the Constitution:—

And whereas, "the consent of the executive and legislative departments of the government of the United States has been given to this iniquitous project, in a manner as unconstitutional as it was profligate, and the aforesaid "foreign nation of Texas" is now recognized as one of the States of the Union;—
Therefore, the undersigned, citizens and inhabitants of this Commonwealth, respectfully & earnestly call upon the Legislature to declare:— That Massachusetts hereby refuses to acknowledge the act of the government of the United States, authorizing the admission of Texas as a legal act:— That the annexation of a large Slaveholding territory, at the will of the government of the United States, with the declared intention of giving strength to the institution of domestic slavery in these States, is an

alarming encroachment upon the rights of the freemen of the Union, a perversion of the principles of republican government, a deliberate assault upon the compromises of the Constitution, and demands the strenuous, united and persevering opposition of all persons, without distinction, who claim to be the friends of human liberty" — That, inasmuch as the old Union has ceased to exist, and ~~as~~ ~~such~~ its recognition as still binding, ~~on any~~ ~~Massachusetts~~, would be traitorous to the cause of human liberty, to sanction a great national crime, — to submit to an absolute despotism — to co-operate ~~for the extension of the unequal rule of representation by federal numbers,~~ ^{extension and} ~~and~~ for the perpetuation of slavery and the slave trade — and at the same time to give the lie to all the solemn declarations of Massachusetts, in regard to the annexation of Texas — therefore, it is the duty of the Senators and Representatives from this State, in Congress, immediately to return home to their constituents, and the duty of the people of Massachusetts immediately to hold a general convention, for the purpose of framing an independent and free government, either for herself alone, ~~and~~ with such other States as may be disposed to co-operate with her in trampling upon tyranny, and ~~carrying~~ ^{carrying} into full effect the self-evident truths set forth in the ^{old} Declaration of Independence.

Date Jan. 30, 1846.

From within the
in porous fabric
c. 1870

No 1.

The blue sheet was written by
Francis Jackson, and the white
by W. L. Garrison.

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p. 14

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